

SOME NOTES ON THE SECOND EDITION OF THE FAUNA
OF BRITISH INDIA—BIRDS, VOLS. I AND II

BY

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VOL. I

Excellent as was the Fauna of Oates and Blanford—and few will deny the great help it has been to those of us in India who were ‘ornithologically inclined’, a new edition in light of the extended knowledge of the last 30 years was urgently required. To write such an Avifauna within the limits prescribed covering the whole of India (in the widest political sense) and dealing with every aspect of each species fully, is an Herculean—nay almost impossible—task for any one man. Only those who have studied the subject at all deeply can realize what an immense amount of work in the museum and library such a work entails. It will follow therefore of necessity that those who have specialized at all in any one department or region will find in the new edition of the Fauna statements which are not strictly accurate when applied to their speciality, and here and there they will find errors or slips have unaccountably crept in. Mindful of these facts and of Mr. Baker’s request (vol. xxx, 207-9) for helpful criticisms, I venture to put on paper these few notes which I have jotted down chiefly concerning N.W. Indian birds on reading through the *Fauna*—not that they pretend to be exhaustive—avoiding as far as possible any matters of opinion or subsequent publication. For convenience of reference I have copied the nomenclature used in the Fauna.

p. 21. Raven (*Corvus corax laurencei*). I cannot confirm the statement that the Brown-necked Raven replaces this bird in N.E. Sind. There are very few certain records of *ruficollis* in Sind.

p. 34. Sind House Crow (*Corvus splendens zugmayeri*). The distribution given of this bird is too wide to the west. In Beluchistan it is practically confined to Las Belas and Sibi plains. Zarudny did not meet with it in Persian Beluchistan nor has any one else met with it there or in the Mekran, so far as I am aware. Nor does it enter the hills to any extent. If it occurs at Fao in Iraq at all, it must have been introduced there; there is no recent record. On the other hand it is the form of House Crow over the greater part of the western Punjab plain, but to Afghanistan it must indeed be a straggler or occur in places just on the border. It must be remembered that old records of ‘Afghanistan’ (such as Griffiths’) did not refer to Afghanistan of to-day necessarily but often to Beluchistan (Sibi) or even Upper Sind.

p. 31. Rook (*Corvus frugilegus tschusii*). The Rook does more than occasionally wander to the Punjab plains. It is a regular winter visitor to the plain north of the Salt Range and occurs at Gujranwala, Ludhiana and near Lahore—as recorded by Whistler and Currie. Punjab specimens which I have examined cannot be picked out in any way from the typical race.

p. 29. Himalayan Jungle Crow (*Corvus coronoides intermedius*). It is difficult to see how small birds at Murree can be wanderers from the plains after breeding. No Jungle Crow breeds in the Western Punjab plains and the species is practically absent from Sind. The distribution of *levallanti* therefore also needs emendation.

p. 38. Kashmir Magpie (*Pica pica bactriana*). It must surely be a straggler to the Simla Hills; at all events no one has met with it there of recent years.

p. 48. Indian Tree Pie (*Dendrocitta rufa*). I have already gone so fully (Ibis. 1922, p. 537) into the races of this bird that I will only say that if any races are to be recognized at all it is surely inconsistent to unite the largest and paler north-western bird (*pallida*) (W 152-170), with the smallest and darker

South Indian bird *rufa* (W 135-152). *Sclateri* and *kinneari* do not appear to me to be very distinct forms.

p. 70. Yellow-billed Chough (*Pyrrhocorax graculus*). The Himalayan bird of which Whistler has obtained a splendid series run much larger than European ones ♂ W 275-298, bill from base 35-38. ♀ W 262-266, bill 34-35. It should, at any rate for the time being, stand as *forsythi*.

pp. 73-77. Grey Tits (*Parus cinereus*, etc.). The Great Tit of Southern Persia *P. major blanfordi* belongs most distinctly to the *major* and not the *cinereus* group. I am unaware of any of the *cinereus* group in N. Arabia.

P. m. intermedius. The measurements given are too small for Baluchi birds, males of which measure W 73-78 T. 63-72. It is a large-winged bird *with tail in proportion*; some of mine have not fully grown tails so that 63 mm. is probably on the small side.

P. m. planorum. This supposed race wants further examination. I have examined the type, it is an unsexed winter bird with no original label, said to have come from 'South Punjab'! The wing measures 70 mm. It and another apparently from the same source (W 68) I cannot distinguish from *kaschmirensis*. No Grey Tit breeds in the plains of the Punjab, except perhaps on the Delhi side, nor in Sind.

A useful distinction in the various races of Grey Tit is the white wedge on the penultimate tail feather's inner web. This varies in depth in birds from the type localities pretty constantly.

In <i>cinereus</i>	10-20 mm.	up from tip; outer web black.	
In <i>mahrattarum</i>	20-28	" "	with a black line.
In <i>kaschmirensis</i>	30-40	" "	no black line.
In <i>intermedius</i>	37-40	" "	" "

p. 82. Turkestan Marsh Tit. (*Parus palustris korejewi*). I can find no record of this bird in Beluchistan. I think that it would have been more helpful if, in all cases of very rare stragglers, the records had been given in full.

p. 85. Simla Black-Tit. (*Lophophanes rufonuchalis rufonuchalis*). The English name of this bird only has priority to recommend it, it being given by Jerdon. But it must be very confusing to the inexpert. This Tit does not occur actually in Simla, nor is the type locality Simla. Blyth says 'Tyne range beyond Simla presented by Capt. Hutton.' Stewart (*Zool.* 1886 p. 443) says he gave Hutton this bird and he procured it at Nagteeba two long marches beyond Landour though the date he gives (1861) must have been a slip. In the description it is said that there is a broad band *down the abdomen* 'black,' and the upper plumage is olive green; both these statements are copied from the Fauna ed.; and are misleading; if there is a broad black band as stated it must be rare as none of our large series have it, and olive green must have been a slip for olive grey.

p. 98. White-Cheeked Tit. (*Ægithaliscus leucogenys*). A reference is made to Whitehead obtaining this bird as low as 1,800 feet at Safed Koh on July 20. This is as recorded by Whitehead, but it is an obvious misprint or slip for 8,000 ft., and as such is nothing noteworthy. The Safed Koh being one of the highest mountains on the Frontier, no part of it of course is anything like so low as 1,800 ft.

p. 100. Penduline Tit. (*Remiz coronatus*). I know of no record in British Beluchistan of this species; Whitehead and Magrath obtained it in Kohat District, N.W.F.P.

p. 133. Velvet-fronted Nuthatch (*Sitta frontalis*). The distribution is given as the whole of India west of Bombay, Gwalior and Kumaon; it should of course be *east* of this line. The Himalayan bird is smaller than the Ceylon bird in wing and bill, and should stand as *Sitta frontalis corallina* Hodgson (J.A.S.B.V., p. 779. 1836 Nepal), Ceylon birds measure W 75-84. Nepal and Sikkim, W 71.5-77.

p. 199. Afghan Babbler (*Argya caudata huttoni*). The 'Jay River Hills' in Sind is the Gaj Nai, a hill water course in the Khirthar N.W. of the Munchar Lake. I too made the mistake (Ibis, 1922, p. 540) of uniting *eclipses* with *Argya*

caudata caudata; it is perfectly distinct and an interesting form. It is rather larger than *caudata* and much darker on the upper parts with larger streakings. Since I wrote (*loc. cit*) I have seen a good series from Rawalpindi, Peshawar (type) Attock and Kashmir foothills (Punch-Gingri road). It is the race inhabiting the lower hills in the N.W. corner of India. Hume's original description is good. The status of this race seems to be on a par with that of *Molpastes leucogenys humii*.

p. 357. Grey Hypocolius (*Hypocolius ampelinus*). The distribution of this bird is still not completely known. It certainly is a summer visitor to Iraq, but Mr. Baker appears to suggest that it is resident in Persia moving south in spring; I know of no support for this.

pp. 383-389. Red-vented Bulbuls. (*Molpastes hæmorrhous*). The measurements given for the various races will need revision, and it may be noted that Bulbuls vary in size according to sex and so it would have been better to have given the measurements for each sex. The wing measurement of *pallidus* is given as 87-97; I measure a large series—♂ 96-101, ♀ 89-94.5. It is not clear from the distribution given that this bird occurs in S. E. Sind and in the plains of the Western Punjab. The measurements of *bengalensis* is given as 103-111; the few I have from Bengal measure 3 ♂♂, 101.5-104.5, 4 ♀♀ 93-99. *Intermedius* is given as '92-105, very few reach 100.' I measure 8 ♂♂. (100.5) 102.5-106, 7 ♀♀ (92), 98-102! In passing it may be noted that the description of *M. h. nigropileus* has been omitted.

p. 390. White-eared Bulbul (*Molpastes leucogenys leucotis*). The type locality cannot be restricted to the Punjab as it has already (J. B. N. H. S., xxviii, p. 271, March 1922) been restricted to Karachi in Sind. The measurements given (W 86-93) surely include the Perso-Iraq form *mesopotamicæ*; not one out of our 17 specimens (Sind and Punjab) exceeds 88. ♂ 81.5-88.

p. 394. Bengal Red-whiskered Bulbul (*Otocompsa emeria emeria*). This must be very rare at Simla; no one appears to have recently come across it though Simla is given in the first edition of the *Fauna* as within its range.

p. 422. Small Olive Bulbul (*Pycnonotus erythrophthalmus*). The distribution is omitted.

p. 423. Black-headed Bulbul (*Microtarsus melanocephalus*). The type locality given as 'Sandwich in mares australis' appears to need an explanatory note.

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p. 23. It may be noted that the type of the genus *Saxicola* was designated by Selby in 1825 according to statement (p. 23) but on p. 38 it is accredited to Swainson 1827. The latter seems correct.

p. 24. (*Saxicola caprata*). It seems a pity and confusing to twist round the English names of the Chats. The *caprata* group were well known as Bush-chats and are well named so, conversely the *torquata* group are well known as Stonechats (though Oates called them all Bush-chats) and the English race is actually referred to on p. 27 as the English Stone-chat. Moreover on p. 25 *S. caprata burmanica* is referred to as the Pied Chat while we have another Pied Chat (*C. picata*) on p. 42 and yet another (*C. leucomela*) on p. 45!

p. 41. Hume's Chat (*Enanthe alboniger*). I cannot make out the tail measurements given as 55-71. My Sind birds measure ♂ 71-75, ♀ 66-69 from base of tail.

p. 43. Pied Chat (*Enanthe picata*.) Lest there be any doubt about my statement quoted on p. 43 that this bird is the breeding bird of Eastern Persia, I may say I have examined over 30 specimens, breeding or juveniles, from East Persia, from Serakhs in N. Khorasan to Kohi Taftan in the south. Moreover Blanford also found it breeding in the Kerman and Niriz districts.

p. 47. Barnes' Chat (*Enanthe melanoleuca melanoleuca*). One despairs of the fixity of the Latin name of this bird. *Melanoleuca* had been long used for the eastern form of the Black-eared Wheatear till changed by Hartert to apply to Barnes' bird (Vog. Pal. F., p. 690). It was changed back again in the B. O. U. list Addenda (Ibis. 1921, p. 314) to apply to the Black-eared Wheatear

but now Mr. Baker changes it back again to Barnes' chat. So the nomenclatural pendulum swings! and 'fixity' seems no nearer.

The wing measurements given (85-92) for this bird are too small, as regards Beluchi specimens at all events, as 8 males I have measured vary from 92-96.

p. 53. Tibetan Desert Chat. (*Enanthe deserti oreophila*). Is it certain that this bird winters in Sikkim (whence Stevens does not list it) or anywhere else within Indian territory proper? From my investigations it appears to be a summer visitor to its breeding haunts with a well defined but comparatively narrow winter range which extends from S. Afghanistan, Seistan, Eastern Persia and the Mekran to S. Arabia and Sokotra. It appears to miss the plains of N. W. India altogether.

p. 54. Red-tailed Chat (*Enanthe xanthopyrmyna chrysopygia*). So far as I am aware this chat does not breed in British Beluchistan. I can find no record of it.

p. 79. Guldenstadt's Redstart (*Phoenicurus erythrogaster grandis*). The distribution given of this bird does not seem quite clear. The term 'N. E. Frontier' is vague and is used in various places with varied meanings. Here perhaps it means the N.E. Frontier of Kashmir?; on p. 124 it apparently means the N.W. Frontier Province. This bird must be a mere straggler to the plains of the Punjab.

p. 84. Western Red-spotted Bluethroat (*Cyanosylvia suecica suecica*). This race may of course occur in the plains of N.W. India, but I think it cannot be common; of a large series in Whistler's and my collection from Punjab and Sind not one is referable to this race.

p. 85. Eastern Redspotted Bluethroat. (*C. s. pallidogularis*). Is it quite certain that this Bluethroat breeds in Ladak? I examined Ludlow's specimens and considered that they were *abbotti*.

pp. 87-88. Turkistan Nightingale (*Luscinia megarhyncha golzii*). On p. 87 this bird is referred to as the *Persian* Nightingale though named correctly in the heading. The measurement for the tail of the European bird 'about 65' is too small. It runs up to 72 mm. The length of the first primary varies much in European birds and is of itself no guide; sometimes it is equal to, sometimes it is longer than, the primary coverts. *L. m. africana* is referred to as a larger bird than *golzii* where as it is smaller.

p. 105. Blue-headed Robin (*Adelura caerulescapula*). I can find no record for this bird in Beluchistan.

p. 113. Indian Magpie Robin (*Copsychus saularis saularis*). 'The whole of India' is far too sweeping for the distribution of this bird. There are enormous areas in N.W. India where it is quite unknown or very local and rare.

p. 123. Blackbird (*Turdus merula*). It may be a matter of opinion but it seems to me hardly necessary to consider all these six birds as races of the European Blackbird, and the explanation of their origin is somewhat fanciful. Though *maximus* and *albicinctus* approach on the limits of their distribution, there is no intergradation between the two, which suggests to my mind that they are two distinct species. Again *simillimus* and *bourdilloni* both breed in Palni Hills and so can hardly both be races of *merula*.

p. 143. Salvadori's Thrush (*Turdus obscurus subobscurus*). The wing measurement should surely be 133 not 153 (=5.25 inches).

p. 153. (*Arceuthornis*). The splitting of genera is a question no two people agree on and so, long as this is so uniformity in nomenclature is unattainable. Whether one splits off these three Thrushes from the genus *Turdus* may be purely a matter of opinion; at the same time I think the Fauna is the only modern work in the English language which would put, say, the Black-throated Thrush and the Fieldfare into separate genera, and I fancy few will be disposed to follow this lead. The division between the two genera—sexes alike and sexes not alike—seems too artificial and in some cases a question of degree. Thus on colour the sexes of the Fieldfare are *almost* precisely alike but in most cases the sexes *can* be differentiated; on the other hand some males of the

Black-throated Thrush cannot on colour be differentiated from the females ; moreover, in winter habits this bird is very 'Fieldfare-like.' I should be rather puzzled to know which genus to place the Ring Ouzel in !

p. 156. Fieldfare. *Acreuthornis pilaris*. The distribution given includes this bird as breeding in the Faroes. If it has ever bred there it must be very exceptional. Müller did not record it as a breeding species, nor Knud Andersen in many years reports on the avifauna of Farøe.

p. 173. Blue Rock-Thrush (*Monticola solitaria*). As I have already pointed out the oldest name for the Transcaspian bird is Blyth's *longirostris*. Mr. Baker makes this race and *pandoo* almost the same size in wing measurement. From a large series of males of both races, I make the measurements to be *longirostris*, ♂ 121-127, *pandoo*, ♂ 117-123. (Ibis. 1922, p. 641). It is of interest to note that Mr. Baker considers the Transcaspian bird to breed on the Beluchi frontier and Kurram Hills whereas Col. Meinertzhagen has identified Beluchi breeding birds as *pandoo*. One would have expected the same race in both areas.

p. 177. Rock-Thrush (*Monticola saxatilis*). Does this bird winter in N. W. India, if so it must be excessively rare ? There were no records in the 'First Edition'. Mr. Whistler, never found it wintering in the Punjab and in Sind it is a double passage migrant, as it is in Mekran, almost certainly *en route* to and from Arabia and Africa. Whitehead too only met with it on passage in N. W. F. P.

p. 187. (*Prunellinæ*). Because the generic name *Accentor* cannot be used there is no reason why the English name should be thrown aside ; e.g. we still use the English name 'Ibis' though the Latin generic name *Ibis* has been discarded for *Threskiornis*. Moreover the two groups have for long and widely been known as Alpine Accentors and Hedge Accentors. To call the Alpine birds *Hedge-Sparrows* certainly is *not* technically correct.

p. 197. *Prunella strophiala jerdoni*. This bird may of course breed in Beluchistan though I know of no record. It breeds as near as S. Waziristan.

pp. 201-3. Eastern Spotted Flycatcher (*Muscicapa striata neumanni*). The statements that this bird is 'to some extent migratory' and is a very rare straggler to India in winter hardly describes its Indian status. It is *inter alia* a summer visitor to N. E. Beluchistan and occurs not uncommonly on autumn passage in the plains of N. W. India. I know of no record of it wintering ; it appears like several other species to winter out of India altogether. The Persian birds which I have examined certainly belong to this form.

pp. 203-6. *Hemichelidon*. Mr. Baker is certainly wrong in discarding Hodgson's names for the Sooty Flycatchers. Hodgson instituted the genus *Hemichelidon* for their reception and described the birds as *Hemichelidon fuliginosa* and *Hemichelidon ferruginea*. If the genus *Hemichelidon* is kept separate from the genus *Muscicapa*, which Mr. Baker does, then Hodgson's names must be used and are not invalidated by *Muscicapa fuliginosa* and *Muscicapa ferruginea* of prior date. If on the other hand *Hemichelidon* is merged into the genus *Muscicapa*, as Dr. Hartert does, these names of Hodgson cannot be used as the combination is preoccupied. This is yet another example, which occurs at least two other times among the Indian Flycatchers alone (viz. *Siphia hyperythra* and *Cyornis melanoleucus*), of the impossibility of uniformity in nomenclature so long as authors are divided on the limitations of genera.

pp. 255-6. Grey-headed Flycatcher. *Culicicapa ceylonensis*. The young in nestling plumage is a slightly duller and paler replica of the adult. No barring and no spotting ! So it apparently is not a Flycatcher ! The birds from N. India are easily separable from Ceylon birds by their paler yellow underparts, paler grey head and throat and paler mantle. It is not quite correct to say that this bird does not occur in the Punjab ; it is common of course in the Himalayan Punjab but it also straggles down into the plains in winter and is recorded from Jhang, Amballa, Lahore and Gujranwala.

I am very doubtful if the name *C. c. meridionalis* can stand for the Malay Peninsula bird. There is no doubt that it is distinct (as pointed out) from the Ceylon bird but three races have already been described from islets off Sumatra, viz. *percnocera* (Pulo Si Maloc Is.), *amphiala* (N. Pageh Is.) *pellonota*

(Samasura Nias Is). It seems questionable from the descriptions whether they are different to the Malay and Sumatra bird and if not one of these names will have priority over *meridionalis*.

p. 264. Indian Paradise Flycatcher. *Terpsiphone paradisi paradisi*. The original reference of this bird should be *Corvus paradisi* (Linn. S. N. ed. x, p. 107) (1758). Linneus' first reference is to Ray. (Av. 195. t 2. f 13) where the bird is described and figured from Fort Saint George, Madras, so that there was no need for Mr. Baker to have restricted it (p. 266) to Madras.

p. 271. North Indian Black-naped Flycatcher *Hypothymis azurea styani*. The distribution given for this bird 'All India north of *sykesi*' is far too sweeping. Although I obtained an unaccountable waif in Sind it does not occur so far as is known in the greater part of N. W. India at all.

p. 277. No. 700 is called the White-browed Fantail *warbler* instead of Flycatcher. The same nuddle is made on p. 281, last para.

p. 283. *Laniidae*. It is not quite correct to say the shrikes have an autumn moult only, i.e., do not moult in spring. *Lanius minor*, *L. nubicus*, *L. isabellinus* all certainly have a spring body moult and probably *L. vittatus*.

p. 285. Grey shrikes (*Lanius excubitor*). I can see no constant difference in the amount of white on the inner webs of the secondaries and so the key for *aucheri* and *pallidirostris* will fail. The tail length for adults of *lahtora* given as 100-115 is too small. On a good series I measure it as 117-129.

pallidirostris is said to have occurred only once in India; besides this Punjab specimen, I consider it to have been found at least once in Sind; but if Beluchistan is included in India as it seems to be (as the sole occurrence of the woodchat rests on a Quetta specimen) then it should be included as the breeding race in and a not uncommon summer visitor to the hills of N.E. Beluchistan. The nest was described in the Ibis., 1920, p. 150.

pp. 294-7. Rufous-backed Shrikes (*Lanius schach*).

p. 294. The characters relied on for retaining *L. tephronotus* as a species are not constant. That *erythronotus* never lacks the white speculum and has the central tail black and that *tephronotus* always lacks the white speculum and has the central tail brown, no doubt, is true for the majority of the specimens. I have seen *erythronotus* with the white speculum absent (specimens Jhang, Jhelum, Pindi, Quetta, Srinagar) and birds which otherwise are typical *tephronotus* with a white speculum or a trace of it; in some states of plumage *erythronotus* has the central tail brown not infrequently, while in *tephronotus* I have seen the central tail nearly black or the terminal half black. Then again at lower elevations in the N.W. Himalayas one finds typical *erythronotus* but in Lahul 10,000 feet typical *tephronotus* (Whistler) but in the intermediate elevations birds are intermediate between the two and a series can be formed intergrading from one extreme to the other. It is not a question of two species interbreeding as typical birds of the two forms do not occur together. I certainly should consider *tephronotus* to be the high elevation race of *schach*. 'Races of *schach* from Europe'; I have never heard of this bird in Europe.

p. 295. The tail measurements of *erythronotus* are too small; a large series measured as 108-120.

p. 297. The nestling of *tephronotus* is easily distinguishable from that of *erythronotus*; the upper parts are many shades darker grey.

Tephronotus would appear to be very rare in winter in the Punjab plains. The type localities given for these two birds are not correct. Vigors described both birds from the 'Himalayas', good reason for showing that these birds came from the area Simla-Almora has been given in the Ibis (1924, pp. 468-473). Moreover Lucknow certainly is not in the Himalayas nor should I consider Gyantse to be either.!

p. 300. Woodchat Shrike (*Lanius senator niloticus*).

The statement that this bird inhabits the more barren and stony hill sides in Mesopotamia and is not found except as a winter visitor in the open plains is hardly correct; nor have I found any evidence of it breeding in Mesopotamia.

So far as we know it does not winter in Mesopotamia at all but is a through migrant when it usually inhabits much the same sort of country as woodchats do elsewhere (J. B. N. H. S., 1921, p. 235).

p. 301. Brown Shrike (*Lanius cristatus cristatus*). A good distinction between this bird and *isabellinus* and *phaenicuroides* lies in the comparative shortness of the outer tail feather. From the tip of this feather to the tip of the central tail feathers in *cristatus* measures 19–24 mm.; in the other two birds 10–16 mm.

p. 302. Pale Brown Shrike (*Lanius cristatus isabellinus*.) The type locality given as 'Kampada' is hardly recognizable; Gonfoda or Kunfuda seem to be the more usual variants in spelling. A tail measuring 64 mm. surely cannot be fully grown? in 12 specimens measured the length is 80–86 mm.

p. 303. Rufous Shrike (*Lanius cristatus phaenicuroides*).

This bird probably is commoner in India than is recognized at present, but I question whether it will be found to be so in *winter*. In Sind, Punjab, Mekran, as in Iraq, it is a decided passage migrant and it winters as far south as Abyssinia and the Sudan.

p. 329. Small Minivet (*Pericrocotus peregrinus peregrinus*).

I have already (Ibis., 1922, pp. 613–614) gone so fully into the question of placing the type locality at Amballa that for the benefit of those who have not seen this work I will only repeat that when Linnaeus described this bird in 1766 it was very unlikely that he described a Punjab bird at all; and Amballa birds are intermediate between *peregrinus* and *pallidus*; therefore Amballa is a very unfortunate choice.

pp. 356–7. Black Drongo. (*Dicrurus macrocercus*). I am doubtful whether the Himalayan race is sufficiently distinct. No reliance can be placed on average measurements when sex is disregarded or is unknown, as obviously one group might contain more males or more females than the other. The maximal wing length and the minimal tail length in the two supposed races are precisely the same and I cannot find on my own measurements any difference in bill length between the two.

pp. 385–7. Grey-backed Warbler (*Agrobates galactodes familiaris*).

In the generic description, p. 385, it is said that the only representative of the genus in India is a 'somewhat rare winter visitor' but on p. 387 it is said to 'probably breed practically wherever it is found.' The two statements hardly tally. It is very curious and interesting that this bird should breed not uncommonly at Multan; no one else has met with it breeding either in Sind or the Punjab, though Mr. Baker suggests that it may be resident. Doig, Butler, Murray and myself all failed to meet with it in the breeding season in Sind nor has Mr. Whistler discovered its nest in the Punjab. Outside Major Lindsay Smith's records it is only known in the plains as a passage migrant and in two years I only came across it, and then not uncommonly, between September 3 and 24. Mr. Baker does not quite do me justice when he says I have not stated from where to where these migrants were going. I stated my opinion twice! (Ibis., 1920, pp. 531 and 547.) The description of this bird's breeding haunts given as 'in *low stunted* bushes that do not average 20 feet high' makes one wonder what the *really fine* bushes at Multan are like! I saw none there to merit this somewhat 'Americanized' comparison!

pp. 389–90. Indian Great Reed Warbler (*Acrocephalus stentoreus*).

As Mr. Baker says—more breeding specimens are required to elucidate the two forms. I think it is very doubtful if the Sind breeding birds will be found to be *anya*; a large series which I collected in Sind are without doubt *brunnescens* though none are breeding birds; yet if *anya* is resident there one might expect that one or two out of a winter series to belong to this race. Gonda in the U. P. is included in the breeding range of *anya* but a March bird thence in Mr. Whistler's collection is as pale as Kashmir breeding birds and no smaller than some; a worn breeding bird is too worn to say much about.

p. 393. Blyth's Reed Warbler (*Acrocephalus dumetorum*).

It is stated that the second primary is equal to the eighth or is a little shorter. In a large series I find the second primary is just shorter than the 5th or than the 6th. The type locality (omitted) should be 'India.'

p. 401. Streaked Grasshopper-Warbler (*Locustella lanceolata*).

The type locality is given as 'Mainz, Irtum.' The latter word does not appear to be a locality at all but a German word (mis-spelt!) meaning an error! The correct type locality should be 'Russia.'

p. 402. Eastern Grasshopper-Warbler (*Locustella naevia straminea*).

This bird may occur more commonly in N. W. India than records indicate but to say that it occurs 'in great numbers' gives rather an erroneous impression. In three winters I saw a few at one spot only, a certain reed-bed on the Munchar Lake and nowhere else in Sind while in the Punjab Mr. Whistler has only met with it at one place.

p. 411. Indian Tailor-Bird (*Orthotomus sutorius sutorius*).

Tail length, 28-112 mm. (summer) is surely a mistake? I have not seen a tail in the breeding season as short as this.

p. 417. (*Luscinola*). Though some ornithologists unite *Tribura* with *Luscinola* I do not think anyone nowadays puts *L. melanopogon* into any other genus than *Luscinola*; indeed it is the type of the genus.

p. 427. Assam Wren-Warbler. The original reference gives the sub-specific name as *assamensis* instead of *austeni*.

pp. 442-5. The Tree-Warblers (*Hippolais*).

The tail length of *H. rama*, given as 47-52, is too small and is much the same as that given for *H. scita*, consequently the comparative shortness of the tail in the latter species is not emphasized though I have found it to be a useful character. I measure *rama*, T. 52-57, *scita* T. 45-52.

As I have already pointed out the evidence for the inclusion of *Hippolais pallida elaeica* in India is very flimsy and rests on Dresser's statement that he had seen a bird from Sind. Some error is possible since no one else has ever obtained it in India. The two birds referred to as being in Col. Meinertzhagen's collection are *not* in his collection but in the Quetta Museum and neither of them is *p. elaeica*.

Hippolais obsoleta is a bird of mystery but *if* it has a tarsus of 30 mm. it must be a good species!; but an alleged specimen from Sind identified by Seeböhm is rather scanty evidence for admission to the Indian list. If this species *is* a good one the distribution given—Fao, Turkestan and Sind—is a very extraordinary one for a bird described from *Moscow*!

p. 447. Indian Whitethroat (*Sylvia communis icterops*).

Does this bird *winter* in India as stated? Oates only knew of September specimens and Mr. Whistler and myself have only met with it in September and October on passage.

p. 449. Desert Warbler (*Sylvia nana nana*).

The reference given as '*Sylvia affinis* Blanf. and Oates; p. 396' is of course a slip. A 'third hand' clutch of eggs without the bird and without precise data seems somewhat slender evidence for inclusion as a breeder within Indian limits.

p. 457. Indian Lesser Whitethroat (*Sylvia curruca affinis*). I am very doubtful whether this bird breeds at Quetta, Gen. Betham informed me that he may have been mistaken, though he thought he sent breeding birds to Bombay Museum. Enquiries there however have not brought any to light.

p. 452. Small Whitethroat (*Sylvia curruca minula*). This too is stated to breed in Beluchistan; I know of no good record of it. *If* both these Whitethroats do breed in Beluchistan they cannot both be races very well of *curruca*.

p. 453. Genus *Phylloscopus*. These birds are of course *winter* visitors to the plains, not summer as stated.

The key in the first edition of the *Fauna* failed because it tried to separate birds into one group which have dark heads and coronal bands from those which have not, and into the first group was put *Phylloscopus humii*. The same fault has been repeated in this edition. The majority of specimens of *humii* have the coronal band and the dark part of the crown so ill defined that they are easily put into the wrong division of the key. The key in the second edition I think would work better if for the group with 'no coronal bands'

were substituted 'no wing bars' and for those 'with coronal bands', 'wing bars or a trace of bars present.' But even with this modification a beginner would get mixed up with *sindianus* and *neglectus*.

p. 456. Tytler's Willow Warbler (*Phylloscopus tytleri*). The winter distribution as regards Western India needs modification; this bird is not found in Sind nor can I find any record of it in the Punjab plain. Like some other species it perhaps reaches the Himalayas via the Siwaliks as suggested by Mr. Whistler in other species.

pp. 456-8. (*Phylloscopus collybita*). Mr. Whistler has never been in Ladak and therefore he could not have obtained *Phylloscopus sindianus* breeding there! Specimens which he obtained breeding in Lahul I certainly think are *tristis* as they still retain a trace of the greenish tinge on the wings. When all green tinge has worn off the plumage of breeding birds it is practically impossible to differentiate the two races. In the field the alarm note might be a good guide as Brooks pointed out a very distinct difference.

In winter *sindianus*, so far from 'keeping to semi-desert and poorly wooded tracts,' in Sind is found in the best wooded parts of the province—thick babool jungle in the Indus and canal areas. In anything approaching desert I never saw it as I have already pointed out in the 'Birds of Sind.'

p. 460. Olivaceous Willow-Warbler (*Phylloscopus griseolus*).

By a slip this is called the Olivaceous *Tree* Warbler. Far from being 'doubtless a common winter visitor to the Punjab' I think it will be found that like *Phylloscopus tytleri* it does not normally winter in these plains at all; at any rate that is in accordance with such evidence as we have as, though Mr. Whistler has found it on migration in the Punjab plain, he has never found it wintering there.

p. 469. Hume's Willow-Warbler (*Phylloscopus humii humii*).

This Willow Warbler does not breed or even occur in Beluchistan so far as is known.

p. 470. Crowned Willow-Warbler (*Phylloscopus humii præmium*).

In view of the other Crowned Willow-Warblers it seems a pity not to have altered this name to the name accepted in England, viz., the Yellow-browed Willow-Warbler.

In the foot-note Mr. Baker says that *Phylloscopus inornatus* of Blyth cannot be used for this bird as Blyth stated subsequently that it does not apply to this species. I do not know where he stated this but how does it alter the facts? Blyth in his 'Catalogue' places *inornatus* as a synonym of *modestus* (= *proregulus*) which, from the description of *inornatus*, could not be correct. He evidently realized this as in a copy of his Catalogue, Blyth altered this in his own handwriting, putting *inornatus* as a synonym of *supercilius*. Because an author thinks he has made a mistake and says that a bird described by him, he thinks, is in reality another species, the name is not invalidated if the description holds good. For instance Blyth thought erroneously that his *Turdus dissimilis* was only the male of *Turdus unicolor* but that does not invalidate Blyth's name (cf. F. B. I, ed. ii, vol. ii, p. 141). So too Hume renounced his *Pellorneum minus* and said it was only *P. ochraceum*, this was afterwards proved to be wrong and *P. minus* stands.

Mr. Baker cannot separate *Phylloscopus mandellii* from this bird; if that is so then *præmium* is the same bird as *mandellii*, and the latter name has thirty-six years priority over *præmium*! To add to the muddle on p. 47 he calls the bird *P. h. superciliosus*.

p. 490. Kashmir Grey-headed Warbler (*Seicercus xanthoschistus albosuperciliaris*). Mr. Baker may possibly have some source of information not available to me concerning Beluchistan, but like several other species mentioned in the Fauna, I can find no record of this species within the Agency. Most of Beluchistan is quite unsuited to it.

p. 507. White-bellied Bush-Warbler (*Horornis albiventris*). The type locality is given by a slip as Kashmir; it should of course be Hengmai, Manipur Valley, as stated under 'Distribution.'

p. 520. Sind Hill-Warbler (*Suya crinigera striatula*). This bird certainly does *not* inhabit the plains. It may wander down in winter to almost plains-level, but it does not leave the hills.

p. 526. Indian Streaked Wren-Warbler (*Prinia gracilis lepida*). The distribution of this bird extends at least to the United Provinces whence I have a breeding bird from Futtehgurh.

p. 533. Aboo Jungle Wren-Warbler (*Prinia sylvatica rufescens*). The name *Prinia rufescens* cannot be used for this bird as it is preoccupied by Blyth's *Prinia rufescens* (= *Franklinia rufescens*) see p. 427. Hume described this Wren-Warbler from Mt. Aboo, Garhwal, Satara District and Etawah (Ibis., 1870, p. 111) and he described it again as *Drymoipus insignis* (S.F., i, p. 10) from Mt. Aboo and Central Provinces. Hume was certainly confused (and little wonder!), by the seasonal and age plumages of this Warbler and described twice over the Mt. Aboo bird and mixing up with both, *Prinia sylvatica sylvatica*. It is perhaps questionable whether Hume's names can stand, but as he indicates a greyer tone of plumage in *insignis* and cites Mt. Aboo as a locality, I think perhaps the name *Prinia sylvatica insignis* may stand for this bird which I think is by no means restricted to Mt. Aboo, but to which place I now restrict the type locality.

p. 539. Himalayan Goldcrest (*Regulus regulus himalayensis*).

There is no need to restrict the type locality to Srinagar as Mr. Baker has done, as the correct type locality, even if not well known, can easily be found out. Jerdon described this bird from Blyth's MS. In the Ibis, 1870, p. 168, Blyth says he had only seen one specimen which he believes was procured near Simla. In the *Zoologist*, 1886, p. 443 there is the account of obtaining this specimen by Surg.-Gen. Stewart near Kotegurh and this must be the type locality.

LOWESTOFT, July 1925.